

Minutes from the City Council Meeting on Tuesday March 6, 2018 at 7:15 pm in the City Council Chambers are as follows:

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CITY COUNCIL
CHICOPEE MA

Vieau, John L.	Ward 3 Councilor	Present
Laflamme, Frank N.	At-Large Councilor	Present
Roy, Gerard (Jerry) A.	At-Large Councilor	Present
Tillotson, James K.	At-Large Councilor	Present
Zygarowski, Robert J.	At-Large Councilor	Present
McAuliffe, Joel D.	Ward 1 Councilor	Present
Brooks, Shane D.	Ward 2 Councilor	Present
Balakier, George A.	Ward 4 Councilor	Present
Krampits, Fred T.	Ward 5 Councilor	Present
Dobosz, Derek	Ward 6 Councilor	Present
Courchesne, William C.	Ward 7 Councilor	Present
Labrie, Gary R.	Ward 8 Councilor	Present
Walczak, Stan	Ward 9 Councilor	Present

Public Input-None

C-1 A communication from Theresa Picard regarding reappointment as Health Commissioner.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and refer to item #13. Councilor Tillotson stated the letter refers to item #13. Motion passed.

MO-1 Mayors appropriation of One hundred sixty thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$160,000.00) to the following named account: D.P.W. Water Special Account for South Street Water Main Replacement from available funds in the Water Surplus Account.

--Motion made by Councilor Laflamme to receive and pass. Councilor Laflamme stated there was a new water main on South Street, repaired and asphalted. Need to do a finished surface. Councilor Tillotson stated there is one constituent looking forward to seeing this work done. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-2 Mayors appropriation of One hundred thirty thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$130,000.00) to the following named account: D.P.W. Water Special Account for Purchase of a CAT 430F IT Backhoe Loader from available funds in the Water Surplus Account.

--Motion made by Councilor Dobosz to receive and pass. Councilor Dobosz stated the backhoe is used for water main breaks, snow removal, etc. Self explanatory. Councilor Tillotson stated now is the time to do it, won't affect the water rates, replacing a unit from the 1990's. Councilor Laflamme stated the old one will be used in the yard. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-3 Mayors appropriation of One hundred thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$100,000.00) to the following named account: D.P.W. Highway Special Account for Chicopee River Canal Path from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" Account.

--Motion made by Councilor Courchesne to receive and pass. Councilor Courchesne explained an additional site surveying is required by DOT. This is required by the State to continue the work. Motion passed through all stages by a roll call vote of 12 yes, 1 abstention. Councilor Vieau abstained.

MO-4 Mayors appropriation of Fifty two thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$52,000.00) to the following named account: D.P.W. Wastewater Special Account for Memorial Drive Sewer Extension from available funds in the Sewer Surplus Account.

--Motion made by Councilor Zygarowski to receive and pass. Councilor Zygarowski stated the money is to be used in Fairview, reports in the area. Some of the sewer service is not in compliance. Sewer surplus monies. Councilor Tillotson stated it is time to get this fixed. The money was appropriated in 2012 but work wasn't done. Won't impact the rate. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-5 Mayors appropriation of Fifty thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$50,000.00) to the following named account: D.P.W. Sanitation Salary Account for Overtime from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" Account.

--Motion made by Councilor Balakier to receive and pass. Councilor Balakier stated this is involving sanitation for OT, extra hours were worked. Curbside due to snow events, should be enough to carry through to the end of the fiscal year. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-6 Mayors appropriation of Twenty thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$20,000.00) to the following named account: MIS Salary Account for Overtime from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" Account.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and pass. Councilor Tillotson explained MIS is looking for OT, camera enhancements, munis upgrades, they need extra hours. All they are doing is a plus for the City. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-7 Ordered that the City Council accept the donation to the Chicopee Fire Department of a self-contained breathing apparatus tank unit with a compressor and filling station from the Ludlow Fire Department. Said donation has an estimated value of Two thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$2,000.00) and is accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A1/2.

--Motion made by Councilor Labrie to receive and the donation accepted. Councilor Labrie said this will be put at station 4 and the Fire Department will gladly accept this. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-8 Be it Ordered that the City of Chicopee amend its local room occupancy excise under G.L., c. 64G, Section 3A to the rate of 5 percent.

--Motion made by Councilor Walczak to receive and pass. Councilor Walczak stated our present rate is 4% so it will mean additional income for the City. Councilor McAuliffe said the rate was set, most local cities are set at 6%, still under Springfield & West Springfield. We are loosing revenue, to be competitive. He appreciates seeing it move forward. Councilor Tillotson stated it doesn't affect most residents in Chicopee. Still not overcharging people. It can always be increased. Businesses know where the bargains are. They will come where the rate is lower. Fine line between competitive and greedy. Councilor Laflamme said he agrees with the 1%. MGM is opening, people will look at the price and the taxes being paid. There are 4 or 5 new hotels. Look at the whole picture. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-9 To the City Council:

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed, Al Kendall, 27 New York Avenue, Chicopee, Massachusetts as a member of the Board of Registrars of Voters to serve in such office for the term expiring on the 1st of April, 2019. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable council.

*Re-Appointment

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to approve this evening. Councilor Tillotson stated he has been there a long time with no complaints. Councilor McAuliffe wanted to commend him in a number of different ways. Councilor Zygarowski stated he doesn't know how he finds enough time. Councilor Dobosz enthusiastically enforced. Motion passed.

MO-10 To the City Council:

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed, Edward A. Rybak, 103 Cochran Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts as a member of the Board of Registrars of Voters to serve in such office for the term expiring on the 1st of April, 2022. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable council.

*Re-Appointment

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to approve this evening. Councilor Tillotson stated Mr. Rybak is an anchor to this board. Fine gentleman. Motion passed.

11 A Finance Committee report, REQUEST THAT the Mayor and John Mruk, Chairman of the Chicopee Advisory Task Force attend the Finance Committee meeting to review the recommendations of the task force (which was formed to review the operation and budget of the school department).

--Motion made by Councilor Brooks to receive and placed on file. Councilor Brooks stated they were provided with information about the 30 odd recommendations for the school committee. No regulatory enforcement before we commit to spending money. They need to show good faith in spending. Marge Wojcik wants to work together. Councilor Tillotson stated 36 recommendations were made, some were low fruit, meet half way. They'll need 4 million to make this budget. Not enough. Take this seriously & meet half way. Not directly related to the classroom. Committee did a good job in good faith. Areas they can make some cuts. Don't cut the quality of education. Councilor Laflamme requested the meeting. Wanted to listen before budget time to work together. Didn't want to let it sit in there, glad to have the meeting. Councilor Zygarowski attended, spoke to some teachers, need serious talk between school board and teachers. Like to see budget we can understand. They have to get serious. Teachers feel lots of talking with nothing getting done. Don't want to see services cut. Don't want to see athletic fees. We've bailed them out, they have to do their part. Shocked over some salaries. They need some cuts, spend money on education of our kids. Councilor Dobosz is very much in favor of combining departments, for combining IT, HR, maintenance. Will have to eventually put money into the school department. Spoke to a couple teachers, maybe would take better working conditions. Ideas with health insurance, self-insurance. Happy the board reviewed everything. Councilor Brooks stated a little bit of disconnect between the Council and School Committee. Fixed costs have gone up. People have better use on health care costs. Can't ignore the fact that the federal level is giving less money for free and reduced lunch. People need to make concise decisions. There is a level of cooperation

between Council & Committee. It not just a gross mismanagement of funds. Councilor McAuliffe would like to commend members, going over paperwork, areas can make efficiencies and Chicopee is near the bottom in the area for spending. Main issues, we have under spent for a number of years. Everybody is now involved with the issue now. Some things could have been prevented. Don't feel comfortable laying off teachers. Teachers are looking for a contract. Councilor Courchesne stated there is a chain of formula. People are not applying for services, school teamed up with pioneer valley group to get some revenue for special needs students. Councilor Tillotson stated Chicopee is a gateway city. One of the lowest per capita. Gateway cities are not wealthy. The state needs to look at needs of students. The Medicaid money needs to be used to balance the scales. A percentage is shared by City and School Department. Need to get the state to change the formula. Don't want the city to go to higher taxes. Frugal community when it comes to taxes. Half of students are special needs. Not wealthiest city in the state. Hope bottom line is to keep the teachers in the classroom. Have to have more teachers. Motion passed.

- 12 A Finance Committee report, BE IT ORDERED that the Finance Committee meet to discuss fiscal year 2018 Capital Planning.

--Motion made by Councilor Brooks to receive and place on file. Councilor Brooks stated they covered items passed or on the plan. Received more explanation of some items. Councilor Laflamme said the meeting went well having department heads there. Mayor & department heads helps. Big wish list was cut to immediate needs. Motion passed.

- 13 BE IT ORDERED THAT nomination for the City of Chicopee Board of Health Commission be opened.

--Motion made by Councilor Brooks the nominations for the Board of Health Commission be opened. Motion passed. Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to nominate Theresa Picard. Motion passed. Motion made by Councilor McAuliffe to close nominations. Motion passed. Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to reappoint Theresa Picard. Councilor Tillotson stated the board is working well together. Like to see her passed tonight. Councilor Zygarowski said he was at a Health Board meeting. She works well with the others. Councilor Laflamme stated she does a great job. Motion passed.

- 14 ORDERED THAT the Fire Department equip their trucks with Epi-Pens when called to an emergency.

--Motion made by Councilor Walczak to receive and sent to Fire Department for comments and possible implementation. Councilor Walczak stated if trucks respond first they don't have them until an ambulance gets there. Each school has 4 on hand. Think it's equally important to have these on the trucks. Councilor McAuliffe commends Councilor Walczak for bringing this forward. Great idea. Councilor Tillotson stated they have them in schools because of peanut allergies, worth exploring. Would make sure child has one if they are allergic. Take some responsibility. Councilor Zygarowski asked if there is special training needed? Someone in each school is trained. Councilor Courchesne stated first responders have training, pens are good for 18 months. Councilor Walczak stated a resident had an allergic reaction. Resident was treated by fire truck but it took the ambulance 20 minutes. Councilor Dobosz stated if we carry narcan we should carry these. Motion passed.

- 15 A proposed Ordinance, adding to Chapter 260, Parking Regulations, Clarendon Avenue - Both sides - 25 feet from the intersection of Meadow Street, Parking Prohibited.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive, 1st reading and refer to the Ordinance Committee. Councilor Tillotson stated will take up in committee. Motion passed, referred.

16 A renewal application for a Poppies Drive held by: VFW Post #625 at 625 Front Street for the dates of May 21, 2018 – May 27, 2018. Applied for by: VFW Post #625, Leroy Williams, Jr., 47 Labelle Drive, Chicopee, MA.

--Motion made by Councilor Walczak to receive and approved this evening. Motion passed.

17 A renewal application for a Hawkers and Peddlers License to sell ice cream at various locations. Applied for by: Jeffrey Kline, 330 West Avenue, Ludlow, MA.

--Motion made by Councilor Walczak to receive and approved this evening. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith W Rattell", written over a horizontal line.

KEITH W RATTELL
CITY CLERK